St. Joseph's RC High School

Prayer Resources



Guidance for staff.

1. Always start and end form reflection with the Sign of the cross in Welsh.

Yn enw'r Tad, ar Mab ar Ysbryd Glan. Amen.

- 2. Insist that pupils are reverent throughout the reflection.
- 3. Always invite the students to read and share their thoughts.
- 4. Set the tone. Relaxing music or a flameless candle is always a good way to calm the pupils in the afternoon.
- 5. **Be prepared**. Some reflections may have music or a video so allow time to load and check speakers.

24th Chwefror 2020 Ordínary Tíme Cycle A

Serving God through learning together.



Amen



Reading Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus said to his disciples: "No one can serve two masters.

He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?

Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?'or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.Sufficient for a day is its own evil."

> Leader: The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks be to God

Reflect Adlewyrchu

Theme of the Week Trust in God

When we get on a bus we trust that the driver knows how to drive has a licence to drive and knows the way. So Christians trust their leader, Christ. They believe that Jesus really is the Son of God, and so has authority from God, that he knows the way we should live our lives and the way to God.



Reflect Adlewyrchu

Think & Reflect

This Wednesday marks a very important time in our liturgical year - Ash Wednesday. Be sure to wear your ashes and decide what your you're doing during the Lenten Season.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=UAFO61FRV9I

This Sunday is also a very important date for all of us who live in Wales; St Davids Day.

http://youtu.be/vyfXWSVaqUE

As a class, try your best to learn the 'Our Father' in Welsh. See the final slide for the prayer.

Respond Ymateb

Prayer of the Week

God our Father and Mother, you cared so much for us that you gave us your Son, as the Light of the World. May we place all our trust in his guidance as we seek our way in life. Amen.









Term Four Faith-filled & Hopeful



Focus: Faith-Filled

To be faith-filled is crucial to human wellbeing – faith in yourself, your emotions and judgements. It is also important to have faith in others and for them to have faith in you. This extends to having faith in your family and the communities to which you belong; and, ultimately, faith in God. Faith cannot be taken for granted; it has to be revisited constantly and built up day by day.



Faith-Filled Challenge

 What do you take for granted on a daily basis? As a class, decide the top 3 things we take for granted and make it your goal this week to seek appreciation from each one.
 What is missing from your faith? Reading the Bible? Going to Mass? Saying prayers? By the end of the week, try to accomplish all 3 and speak about the impact it has had in the next Form Reflection. Papal Plenary "Open your heart to faith and God will do the rest" Pope Francis



2nd Mawrth 2020 Lent Cycle A

Serving God through learning together.



Amen

Listen Gwrando

Reading Matthew 4:1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone." Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan!

It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Then the devil left him and, behold,angels came and ministered to him.

Leader: The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks be to God



Theme of the Week Temptation

Everyone, even the Pope, is tempted. It is as much part of being a human as eating and sleeping. Temptation can make us stronger and better people if we learn how to resist it. Just as PE develops our bodies and the physical side to us, so temptation, if we can recognise what it is and resist it, develops the spiritual side of our personality.



Reflect Adlewyrchu

Think & Reflect

Lent in 2 minutes video

http://youtu.be/m3L3c23MfC0

Lent is about giving up luxuries, developing our relationship with God (perhaps through prayer) and helping those around us.

Go around the class and create a tally of what people are doing for Lent. Try and work it out in percentages if you want a real challenge!

Respond Ymateb

Prayer of the Week

Father, your Son resisted the temptations of the devil, while fasting for forty days. May we too resist temptation more strongly during the forty days of Lent. Assist us with your grace and strength. Amen.



Amen





Term Four Faith-filled & Hopeful



Focus: Genuine Faith

The Bible teaches us that genuine faith is "more precious than gold that perishes" You may expect difficulties and persecutions in your life of faith, as well as blessings. Therefore to encourage us to hold onto and develop our faith, we have to consider some of the benefits of faith. Faith brings salvation, it brings answers to prayers and it is the driving force which makes our Christian ministry possible. Saying the 'Our Father' everyday reminds us of these benefits.

Faith-Filled Challenge

- As a class, create a poster which contains all the benefits of being a Catholic. Use keywords, pictures and even favourite quotes from the Bible. Keep it on your Form board to remind you of what it means to be a Catholic.
- 2. The Our Father is such a powerful prayer for us. Dedicate a day and time where you will say it as a Form.



Papal Plenary "Faith is a relationship, not a set of rules" Pope Francis



9th Mawrth 2020 Lent Cycle A



Serving God through learning together.



Amen

Listen Gwrando

Reading Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.But Jesus came and touched them, saying,
"Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain,

Jesus charged them,"Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Leader: The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks be to God



Theme of the Week The Glory of God

God's glory is hidden most of the time; we only get glimpses of it from time to time - for example, in the beauty of a sunset or in the smile of a young child, or in the unexpected kindness of a stranger. A short time before Jesus' death, God allowed the glory of his Son to be seen by his friends, the Apostles, Peter, James and John. This was to remind them that, although it was hidden, God's glory is real and always there.



Reflect Adlewyrchu

Think & Reflect

As a class, think of a time when something good happened that just could not be explained.

As a class, create a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all that he has given you. Think about your family, friends, talents and obstacles you have overcome. Have one member write it out neatly before the end of the week and pin it on the class notice board.

Respond Ymateb

Prayer of the Week

Father of Light, pour the light of your love into our minds and hearts, that we may live good lives and give you the glory for the good things we achieve. Amen.



Amen





Term Four Faith-filled & Hopeful



Focus: Focussed on Faith

Perhaps the best way to become faith-filled is by listening to the Word of God as much as possible. Constant attention to the Word of God produces faith, especially if we attend to it with an open heart and mind. What we listen to affects what we believe. If we listen to the TV more than to the Word, we will believe the lies of the world more than we will believe what God says. That is why we should keep hearing the Word of God whether by attending Mass or reading the Bible or even listening carefully to Songs and Hymns.

Faith-Filled Challenge

1. As a form, research a Hymn or Song that you would like to use for every Form Reflection. The lyrics must have a special meaning to you and your class.



Papal Plenary "A faith that does not make us grow is a faith that needs to grow" Pope Francis



16th Mawrth 2020 Lent Cycle A



Serving God through learning together.



Amen

Listen Gwrando

Reading

John 4:5-42

In Samaria he came to a town named Sychar, which was not far from the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by the trip, sat down by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw some water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink of water." (8 His disciples had gone into town to buy food.) The woman answered, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan—so how can you ask me for a drink?" (Jews will not use the same cups and bowls that Samaritans use.) Jesus answered, "If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water."

"Sir," the woman said, "you don't have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where would you get that life-giving water? 12 It was our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well; he and his children and his flocks all drank from it. You don't claim to be greater than Jacob, do you?" Jesus answered, "Those who drink this water will get thirsty again, but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life." "Sir," the woman said, "give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water." "Go and call your husband," Jesus told her, "and come back." "I don't have a husband," she answered. Jesus replied, "You are right when you say you don't have a husband. You have been married to five men, and the man you live with now is not really your husband. You have told me the truth." "I see you are a prophet, sir," the woman said. "My Samaritan ancestors worshiped God on this mountain, but you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where we should worship God. Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the time will come when people will not worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans do not really know whom you worship; but we Jews know whom we worship, because it is from the Jews that salvation comes. But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God's Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants. God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus answered, "I am he, I who am talking with you." At that moment Jesus' disciples returned, and they were greatly surprised to find him talking with a woman. But none of them said to her, "What do you want?" or asked him, "Why are you talking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar, went back to the town, and said to the people there, "Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?" So they left the town and went to Jesus. In the meantime the disciples were begging Jesus, "Teacher, have something to eat!" But he answered, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." So the disciples started asking among themselves, "Could somebody have brought him food?"

"My food," Jesus said to them, "is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do. 35 You have a saying, 'Four more months and then the harvest.' But I tell you, take a good look at the fields; the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested! 36 The one who reaps the harvest is being paid and gathers the crops for eternal life; so the one who plants and the one who reaps will be glad together. 37 For the saying is true, 'Someone plants, someone else reaps.' I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where you did not work; others worked there, and you profit from their work."

39 Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they begged him to stay with them, and Jesus stayed there two days.

41 Many more believed because of his message, 42 and they told the woman, "We believe now, not because of what you said, but because we ourselves have heard him, and we know that he really is the Saviour of the world."

Leader: The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks be to God

Reflect Adlewyrchu

<u>Theme of the Week</u> <u>The dignity of women</u>

Feminists alert us to any inequality which arises between the sexes. Jesus lived at a time when women were treated badly as second-class members of the community. He was revolutionary in the way he treated women; he gave them respect and numbered them among his closest friends. It was the women who were faithful to him at the foot of the cross, and they who had the honour of finding the empty tomb on Easter day.





Think & Reflect

Many of us are inspired by all different people but mainly sports figures, pop stars or other celebrities.

As a class, try to think of as many women who have inspired generations by their achievements and selflessness.

Please read and reflect on the words of Mother Theresa and end in a silent prayer.



The woman is at the heart of the home. Let us pray that we women realize the reason for our existence: to love and be loved and through this love become instruments of peace in the world.

— Mother Teresa —

Respond Ymateb

Prayer of the Week

Father of all goodness, our selfishness stands in the way of the generous love that we should show to our families and friends. May we use this time of Lent to improve our lives. Amen.



Amen




Term Four Faith-filled & Hopeful



Focus: Grow in Hope

Hope is perhaps the most elusive of virtues. It grows out of faith and love – the stronger faith and love are, the stronger our hope will be. When we have strong faith and love today, we have hope for tomorrow. Hope enables us to trust ourselves and those around us with the decisions that will shape our future. Without hope we become insular, lacking in love, and ultimately despairing. Christianity teaches that God is a God of hope: his Christ walks before us, giving us the gifts (the graces) and courage we need to follow.

Hopeful Challenge

- In pairs, discuss what worries you most about the future.
 Feed back to your teacher and the rest of the class.
- 2. Find 5 inspiration quotes from the Bible about Hope and the future and copy it onto your time table. Every time you look at it, you will be reminded of God's Hope and his love for

you.



Papal Plenary "Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable." Pope Francis



23rd Mawrth 2020 Lent Cycle A



Serving God through learning together.



Yn enw'r Tad, a'r Mab a'r Ysbryd Glan.

Amen

Listen Gwrando

Reading

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbours and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is, " but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

> Leader: The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks be to God

Reflect Adlewyrchu

Theme of the Week Spiritual Blindness

Many people are so involved in daily work, shopping, earning and spending money, that they do not seem aware of their own spiritual life and its needs. They feel an 'emptiness' inside which they try to satisfy by buying new and better things; but it never goes away. They do not realise that the 'space' inside can only be filled by knowing and loving God. They are spiritually blind and need Christ the Light.



Reflect Adlewyrchu

Think & Reflect

Years ago, a women named Helen Keller was born with blindness and deafness but she never let this hold her back from many incredible achievements. What do you think she meant by the following quote:



Respond Ymateb

Prayer of the Week

God our Father and Mother, you cared so much for us that you gave us your Son, as the Light of the World. May we not be blind, but see the way that leads to a peaceful conscience and a good life. Amen.



Yn enw'r Tad, a'r Mab a'r Ysbryd Glan.

Amen





Term Four Faith-filled & Hopeful



Focus: Trust in Christ's Hope

To us Christians, hope is the knowledge that we are being changed for the better as we trust in God's promises. It is the conviction that no matter the circumstances, God's plans for our lives are "for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope". Jesus offers His hope freely to all who willingly come to Him, acknowledge their sin, and trust in His cleansing blood for eternal life. In John 11:25-26, He states "I am the resurrection and the life....He who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die".

Hopeful Challenge

- How can you spread the message of Hope in your community? Find out what local charities and organisations do in your local community at Easter to make sure no body is left without Hope.
- 2. What could you do to spread the message of Hope in school? As a class think of ideas and decide with your teacher and head of year the best way to promote it.



Papal Plenary "Never lose hope; continue to believe, always, in spite of everything" Pope Francis



30th Mawrth 2020 Lent Cycle A



Serving God through learning together.



Yn enw'r Tad, a'r Mab a'r Ysbryd Glan.

Amen

Listen Gwrando

Reading John 11:1-45

11 A man named Lazarus, who lived in Bethany, became sick. Bethany was the town where Mary and her sister Martha lived. (2 This Mary was the one who poured the perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was sick.) 3 The sisters sent Jesus a message: "Lord, your dear friend is sick." When Jesus heard it, he said, "The final result of this sickness will not be the death of Lazarus; this has happened in order to bring glory to God, and it will be the means by which the Son of God will receive glory." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 Yet when he received the news that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. 7 Then he said to the disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "Teacher," the disciples answered, "just a short time ago the people there wanted to stone you; and are you planning to go back?" Jesus said, "A day has twelve hours, doesn't it? So those who walk in broad daylight do not stumble, for they see the light of this world. 10 But if they walk during the night they stumble, because they have no light." 11 Jesus said this and then added, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I will go and wake him up." The disciples answered, "If he is asleep, Lord, he will get well." Jesus meant that Lazarus had died, but they thought he meant natural sleep. 14 So Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 but for your sake I am glad that I was not with him, so that you will believe. Let us go to him." Thomas (called the Twin) said to his fellow disciples, "Let us all go along with the Teacher, so that we may die with him!" When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before. 18 Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Judeans had come to see Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died! 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for." "Your brother will rise to life," Jesus told her. "I know," she replied, "that he will rise to life on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; 26 and those who live and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord!" she answered. "I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world. After Martha said this, she went back and called her sister Mary privately. "The Teacher is here," she told her, "and is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up and hurried out to meet him. (30 Jesus had not yet arrived in the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.) 31 The people who were in the house with Mary comforting her followed her when they saw her get up and hurry out. They thought that she was going to the grave to weep there. Mary arrived where Jesus was, and as soon as she saw him, she fell at his feet. "Lord," she said, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died!" Jesus saw her weeping, and he saw how the people with her were weeping also; his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved. 34 "Where have you buried him?" he asked them. "Come and see, Lord," they answered. Jesus wept. 36 "See how much he loved him!" the people said. But some of them said, "He gave sight to the blind man, didn't he? Could he not have kept Lazarus from dying?" Deeply moved once more, Jesus went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone placed at the entrance. 39 "Take the stone away!" Jesus ordered. Martha, the dead man's sister, answered, "There will be a bad smell, Lord. He has been buried four days! Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believed?" 41 They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, "I thank you, Father, that you listen to me. 42 I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me." 43 After he had said this, he called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave cloths, and with a cloth around his face. "Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go." Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did, and they believed in him.

> Leader: The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks be to God



Theme of the Week Life after death

At this time of the year gardeners are preparing their gardens for the springtime sowing. Dried-up, dead-looking seeds are put into the prepared ground; within a few weeks a row of fresh green shoots has appeared - new life, the wonder of spring. Jesus died, was buried, but he rose up to new life. That is the central theme - and wonder - of Christianity. We too must die to selfishness and rise up to a new life of loving others.





Think & Reflect

Preparation for Holy Week video:

http://youtu.be/HugMM_3Ffnl

What do you think the following quote is trying to teach us? Discuss with the class.

The week that changed the world continues to change our lives.

"Christ's crucifixion is more important that his Resurrection" - do you agree?

Respond Ymateb

Prayer of the Week

Father in heaven, the love of your Son led him to accept the suffering of the cross. Change our selfishness into self-giving. Help us to transform the darkness of this world's pain into the life and joy of Easter. Amen.



Yn enw'r Tad, a'r Mab a'r Ysbryd Glan.

Amen





Term Four Faith-filled & Hopeful



Focus: God IS Hope

The word "hope" in ordinary English vocabulary is generally distinguished from certainty. Hope is not wishful thinking. It's not "I don't know if it's going to happen, but I *hope* it happens." That's not what is meant by Christian hope. Christian hope is when God has promised that something is going to happen and you put your trust in that promise. Christian hope is a confidence that something will come to pass because God has promised it will come to pass.

Hopeful Challenge

- What do you mostly trust God with? Do you trust him as much as a Parent? A Teacher? A Friend? What stops people from being Hopeful? Discuss...
- Create a mind map on the board about the benefits of being hopeful. Have your teacher take a picture of it and return to it when you have exams and Assessments.



Papal Plenary

"Hope is truly like a sail. It gathers up the wind of the Holy Spirit and transforms it into a driving force that moves the boat forward".

Pope Francis

Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd, sancteiddier dy enw; deled dy deyrnas; gwneler dy ewyllys, megis yn y nef, felly ar y ddaear hefyd.

Dyro i ni heddyw ein bara beunyddiol, a maddeu i ni ein dyledion, fel y maddeuwn ninnau i'n dyledwyr. Ac nac arwain ni i brofedigaeth, eithr gwared ni rhag drwg.

